

~~TOP SECRET~~

ATTACHMENT 3

25X1A2g

FEB 1 1955

PROJECT [REDACTED]

Early Phases. The Perkin-Elmer Corporation has been given a commercial contract to produce experimental lenses. Many photographic corporations are constantly interested in improving existing equipment and devising new cameras the capabilities of which will encourage new Government contracts. Consequently the firm has been asked to explore the possibilities of further perfecting existing cameras with improved lenses.

Later Phases. The commercial contract described above was originally entered into by the firm to avoid disclosing the Government interest in this project. Naturally the amount of funds and the particular requirements that are now evident make clear the Government interest in this project. The commercial contract is being used since this is a highly specialized procurement operation in which the Government wished to utilize freely and fully the experience of private firms. In addition it was recognized in the early planning of this equipment that it would be necessary to buy some material overseas and therefore avoid the "Buy American" Act restrictions which could only be done with a commercial type of contract. It is also hoped that the commercial contract, being the usual type of negotiation, will not attract excessive attention in either Government or business circles but will be regarded by most persons as simply another job of the firm.

Final Phase. The main responsibility for photo-intelligence has been given to the Air Force. The Air Research and Development Command as well as the Scientific Advisory Board of the Air Force are particularly interested in having immediately available photographic equipment with capabilities surpassing any standard equipment now available in the Air Force. It is felt that plans for future aircraft construction merit corresponding research and development in photographic equipment so that as aircraft become available over the next few years, the company will also have available photographic equipment commensurate with the capabilities of the aircraft. In addition, the Air Force is especially interested in camera research and development and it is of extreme interest in high levels of the Air Force, particularly AFOIN, to know what can be done with cameras and to have existing specialized cameras should they be needed in an emergency or hot war situation. While no aircraft exists that could fully utilize this equipment, it might be possible to use it in a reconnaissance version of the North American F-100 Super-Sabre Jet Fighter. However, the exact vehicle for this equipment is not known yet and it is expected that it is going to have to be done with balloons.

TS #1
Copy [REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~